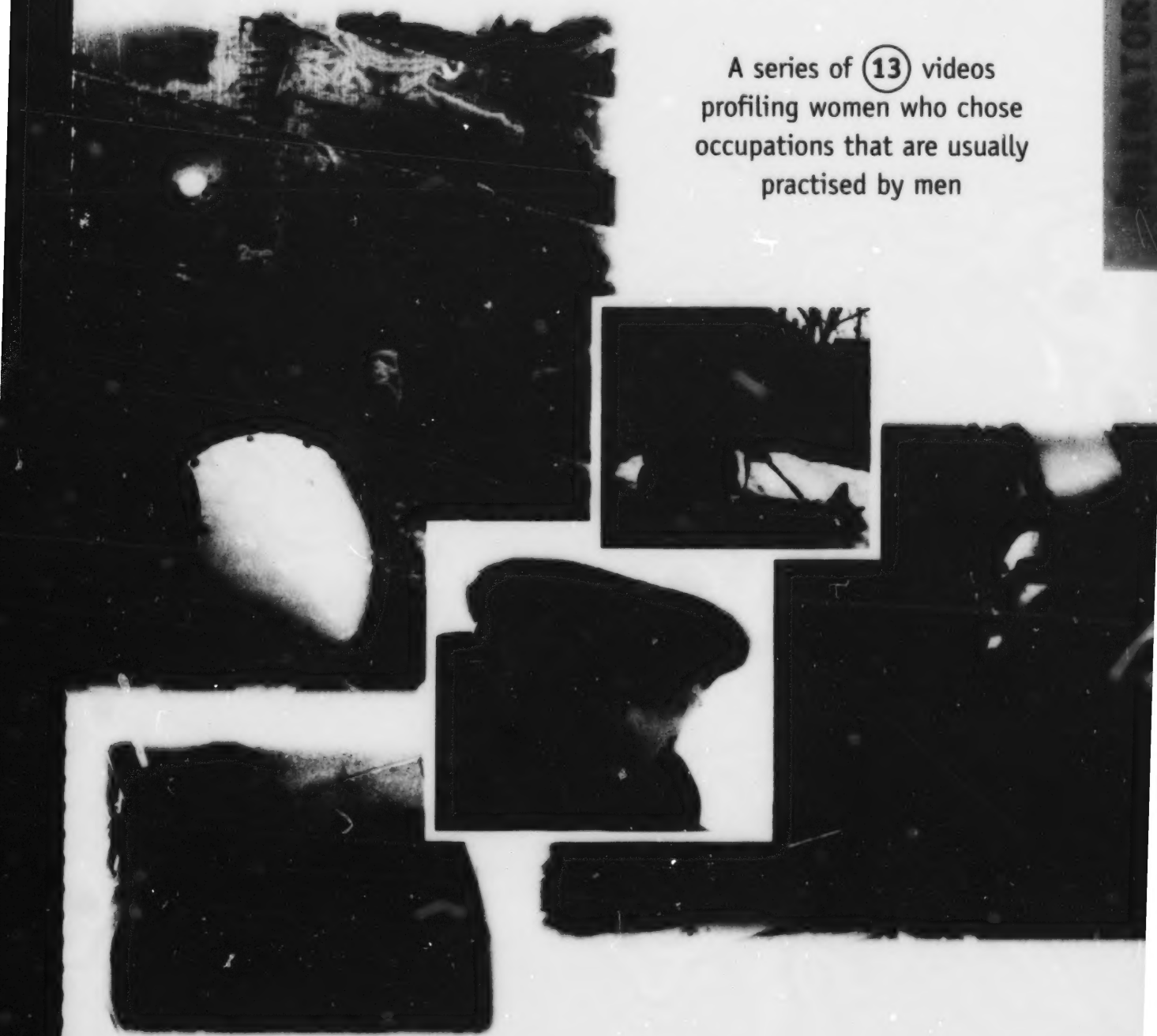
CAREER *OPTIONS*

FOR WOMEN

A series of (13) videos profiling women who chose occupations that are usually practised by men



Québec

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CAREER *OPTIONS* FOR WOMEN

ANIMATOR'S GUIDE

A series of (13) videos
profiling women who chose
occupations that are usually
practised by men

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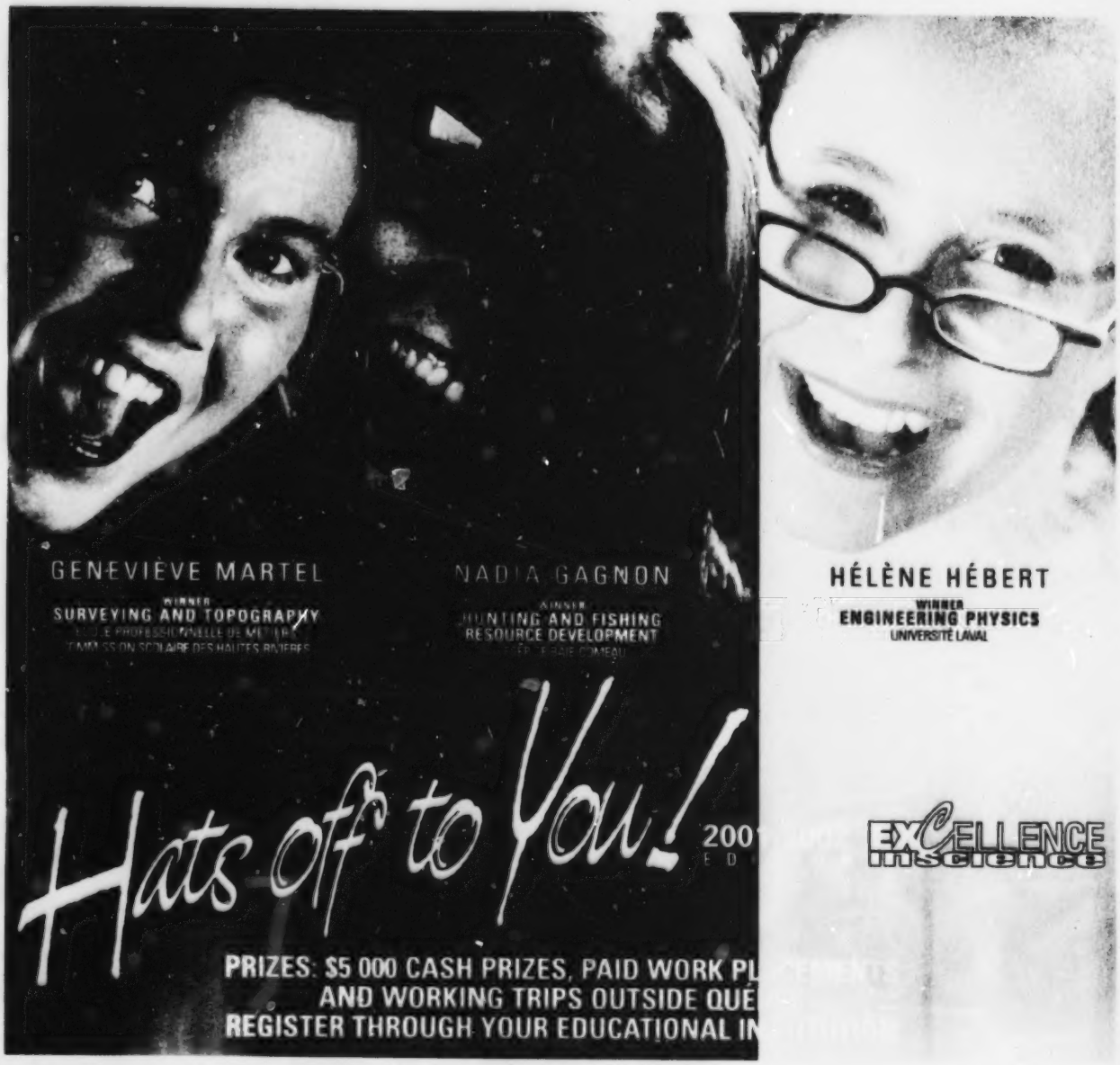
Ministère de l'Éducation, 2001 — 01-000021

ISBN 2-550-37400-0

Legal déposit – Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, 2001



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CAREER OPTIONS FOR WOMEN is a series of 13 videos — each 24 minutes long — aimed at high-school students, teachers, guidance counsellors and parents. The series features career opportunities in the following fields:

- Automotive
- Aerospace
- Canadian Forces
- Construction
- Food Services
- Engineering
- Media
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Medical Services
- Protective Services
- Rescue
- Utilities

Available in both English and French, the series provides valuable information and inspiration to young women, while also raising the awareness of their male classmates. Each video profiles three women in three different careers within each field.

These women are from across Canada. In several cases, the training they needed to qualify for their jobs is different from that required in Québec for similar jobs.

A Bright Future in Trades and Technologies

Young women often overlook careers in fields that appear to be "non-traditional" or male-dominated.

This video series encourages them to consider careers which fall under the designation of trades and technologies.

Not only do these careers offer generous salaries, they are often in fields that currently have a shortage of qualified personnel, and where the demand for technically skilled employees is continually growing.

As a result, many lucrative and fulfilling opportunities await young women who opt for careers in trades and technologies.

Learning Objectives

1. To raise young women's awareness about career opportunities in trades and technologies.
2. To raise young men's awareness about career opportunities in trades and technologies.

About This Series

The 13 videos that make up the **Career Options for Women** series can be used individually in connection with specific courses or disciplines, or they can be viewed as a complete series.

From a cross-curricular point of view, they also offer vivid examples of how different careers and roles in society require a rich blending of knowledge, skills and competencies.

For more information about the series, visit the Career Options for Women Web site at: ***www.careeroptions.org***

This Québec version of the *Career Options for Women Animator's Guide* has been adapted from the original by:

Direction des politiques et des projets
Services à la communauté anglophone
Ministère de l'Éducation

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Using This Guide

These videos can form the basis of a complete three-month program to raise awareness of non-traditional career options for women. They can also be used together or individually as in-class material for various disciplines, and they can serve in a variety of related settings including general presentations, career fairs and parent discussions.

Complete Three-Month Program

Weekly Assignments

- Watch one video every week, starting with Automotive. Each video profiles three women in three different careers within a given field.
- Have students choose one of the three careers viewed and answer the generic question sheet.

1st Month Assignment Have students choose the career they find most appealing out of the four videos viewed. Ask them to interview someone working in that job or field using the question sheet provided.

2nd Month Assignment Have students select one of the 24 careers viewed. They will then research the educational background/training that occupation requires and the institutions that provide it.

3rd Month Assignment After watching all 13 videos, the students will write a summary report on the following:

1. Out of the 39 careers, which three appeal to you the most?
2. Describe at least three facts/characteristics about each career/industry.
3. Provide three reasons why you'd be good at these careers.
4. What current potential do these careers offer?
5. What future potential do these careers offer?
6. What education is required for these careers?
7. Where would you get that education?

Career:_____

Describe a typical day.

_____

_____

_____

What education is required?

_____

_____

_____

What do you think the best part about this job is?

_____

_____

_____

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

_____

_____

_____

What is the salary range for this position?

_____

_____

_____

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

_____

_____

_____

Automotive Careers

This video spotlights the automotive industry, an area that offers a lot of opportunity and a wide range of career choices.

The industry regularly experiences a shortage of trained workers, and there is a definite lack of women in this field.

But this is a situation we are well on the road to changing with the help of a heavy-truck driver, an autobody technician and an automotive mechanic.

From crafting metal and tuning engines, to cruising the highways in a big rig, these women make a good living and enjoy their work.

Overview

Linda Simon
Heavy-Truck Driver
Edmonton, AB

Brenda McWilliams
Autobody Technician
Edmonton, AB

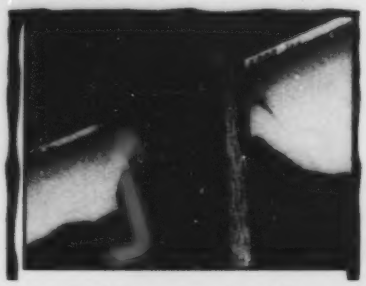
Danuta Wozniak
Automotive Mechanic
Ville d'Anjou, QC

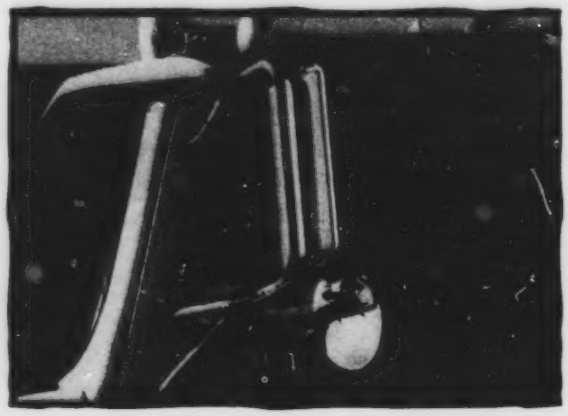
Factoids

1. The technologies used in automotive vehicles are changing constantly. Therefore, mechanics have to continuously upgrade their skills.
2. One can literally count the number of female heavy-duty mechanics across Canada on the fingers of one hand.

Heavy-Truck Driver

Linda Simon



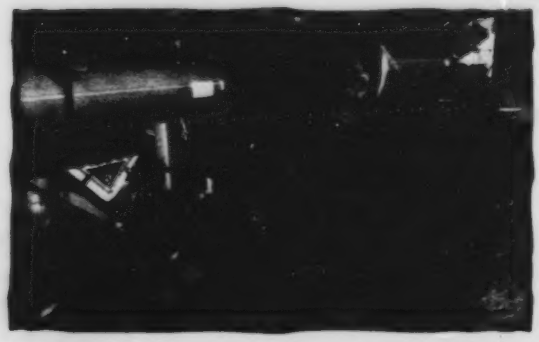


Linda has made a major U-turn from her first career as a hairdresser, where she won the Miss Congeniality award during training.

As a young girl, Linda would sit alongside her truck-driver dad and help steer. Later, when her father was injured in an accident, she made it official and took a seat in the family business.

Linda now works for Mantei's Transport, hauling fuel to service stations within the Edmonton area and to some highway locations.

What she enjoys most about trucking is the beauty of watching the sun rise every morning, and the friendly staff she meets daily at the refinery and her various stops.



Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Truck drivers earn $40,000 to $60,000 per year.

Education
Professional driving courses are available. All drivers must pass provincial driving examinations, as well as medical testing.

Typical Work Schedule
Linda often starts very early in the morning, arriving at work around 5 a.m. For Linda, a great week is a 60-hour one.

Advice
"Some people don't realize that there are a lot of hours involved. It isn't an eight-hour day. Certainly, women are capable, as it's not a physical job, so I would encourage other women to try it."

Factoids

1. Believe it or not, less than 2% of truck drivers across Canada are women.
2. In the current job market, there is a shortage of 3,000 truckers. A truck driver with a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) can earn in the $50,000 range.

Autobody Technician

Brenda McWilliams

Brenda is a 21st century "Michelle Angelo" of the autobody business. Her work in a state-of-the-art automotive repair facility is the dirtiest job in the shop, and she's proud of it!

Brenda's role is to check over the damaged area of a vehicle after the major body repair work has been done. Then she sands and preps the vehicle for painting.

Her first job in this trade was for a body shop specializing in fiberglass repair work. As a result of her training and experience with fiberglass, she can repair a boat hull just as easily as she can a car body.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Brenda earns approximately $35,000 per year.

Education
Apprenticeship Program (combined work and theoretical training spread over a few years).

Typical Work Schedule
Approximately 40 hours per week, with Sundays normally off.

Advice
"As long as there are automobiles, there will be jobs for an Autobody Technician."

Factoids

1. Brenda earns around $35,000 per year.
2. Some of the greatest sculptors of the 20th century have influenced the beauty of [illegible] design.

Automotive Mechanic

Danuta Wozniak

With a list of achievements that included high school athlete-of-the-year and a university background in English literature, Danuta did not seem to be on the road to a career in mechanics. But she knew she was destined to fix things, in her case, cars.

She is now a third-year apprentice mechanic in a busy shop owned by a woman who is also a mechanic.

Danuta repairs and services automobiles, writes out estimates and helps her clients understand the terms used in mechanics.

Mechanics is a career that Danuta finds very interesting and enjoyable. She loves working with the public, putting her clients at ease, and gaining their total confidence in her ability to service their vehicles.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
1st, 2nd or 3rd class mechanics can earn up to $15 per hour in Quebec. Teaching courses in mechanics pays $25 to $30 per hour.

Education
Mechanic courses (Diploma certification).

Typical Work Schedule
40 hours per week, 8 hours a day.

Advice
"I would encourage women to enter this field because it's very interesting and different from other traditional trades. However, it demands lots of confidence and courage."

Factoids

1. Currently, in Canada, there is a critical shortage of skilled mechanics of all types.
2. Technological advances have changed working conditions in trades that were traditionally male-dominated by reducing some of the requirement for physical strength.

Heavy-Truck Driver Answers

Describe a typical day.

I haul fuel to service stations within the Edmonton area and also to some highway points.

What education is required?

Air brakes certification, class 1 driver's licence.

What do you think the best part about this job is ?

I love the beauty of watching the sun rise every morning, and the friendly staff I meet at the refinery and other stops.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Weather and road conditions can be frustrating, but I just slow down.

What is the salary range for this position?

$40,000 to $60,000 annually, depending on how many hours you work.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

With my class 1 driver's licence I can drive any oversized vehicle.

Autobody Technician Answers

Describe a typical day.

After checking over the damaged area of a vehicle, I sand and prep it for painting.

What education is required?

A certificate program with work-experience hours credited towards the first year of apprenticeship or a three-year program taken through a technical school.

What do you think the best part about this job is ?

The instant gratification of seeing a completely wrecked car repaired back to brand new condition. That's a great feeling!

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

It's not the kind of trade where you get a pat on the back. We're not a bunch of girls sitting around congratulating each other. The guys are great, but they're not going to be the first ones to say that you've done a job well.

What is the salary range for this position?

First-year apprenticeship is minimum wage. With schooling, approximately $17 per hour.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I can manipulate metal, repair plastics and fiberglass, polish, and perform welding tasks. All of these skills are transferable to several other occupations.

Automotive Mechanic Answers

Describe a typical day.

I repair and service automobiles. I write out estimates and help my clients understand the terms we use in mechanics.

What education is required?

Mechanics courses (DVS certification).

What do you think the best part about this job is ?

Seeing the "before and after" results gives immediate gratification. Making the client satisfied with the work I've done. Solving a problem that was hard to locate.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

This job is physically demanding and it is tough mentally because of the pressure put on us by others. We're constantly being watched for slip-ups. You need lots of confidence to succeed.

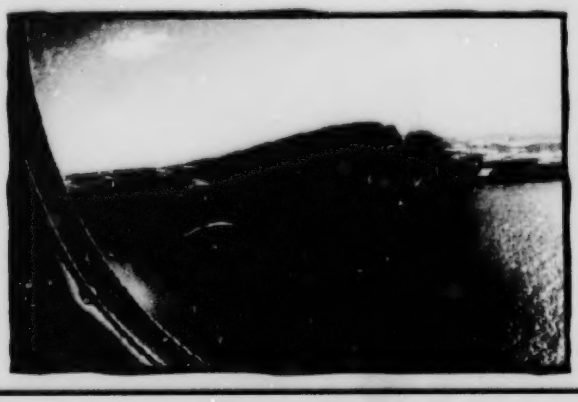
What is the salary range for this position?

First-year apprenticeship: $8 per hour. Increases with the hours accumulated.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could move to other garages, or possibly start my own business.

Aerospace Careers



This video explores some of the incredible opportunities available in the aerospace industry.

Today, nearly 53,000 Canadians work in commercial aviation, a booming business that transports more than 1.4 billion people worldwide.

Since the first historic flight of the Wright brothers in the early 1900s, the aerospace industry has employed mostly men. For a brief period during the Second World War, women worked as pilots, aircraft mechanics, and in other non-traditional roles.

Overview

Dawn Patterson
Aircraft Structures Mechanic
Richmond, BC

Tanya Sprathoff
Aurora Pilot
Halifax, NS

Isabelle Marsan
Aircraft Mechanic
Longueuil, QC

Factoids

1. In Canada, commercial aviation generates $11 billion in revenue annually.
2. Worldwide passenger growth is expected to increase by 5.5% between 1998 and 2002.

Aircraft Structures Mechanic

Dawn Patterson

After spending years as a bartender and server, Dawn decided it was time to trade in the tip jar for something completely different. A job shadowing experience revealed a hidden interest in mechanical work.

Dawn is a sheet metal mechanic for Air BC. She looks for corrosion on the planes, does inspections, removes damaged parts and carries out sheet metal repairs. A lot of her job involves fabricating parts and riveting. She works with many different tools and on various types of aircraft.

Dawn's family weren't the only ones impressed with her work at school. She did so well that she won an award for outstanding academic achievement. Not bad for one of the only girls in her class!

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Apprentices start at $25,000 to $33,000 per year. After they become licensed, their wages double.

Education
Two-year technical school program (diploma certification).

Typical Work Schedule
10-hour shifts; 4 days on, 4 days off; one month nights, then one month days.

Advice
"Find out what you like best — whether it's metal or wood, building or repairing, and GO FOR IT! It's a great opportunity and there's a lot of money to be made!"

Factoids

1. Only 12% of Québec's aircraft assemblers and aircraft assembly inspectors are women.
2. Aviation has come a long way in a hundred years. The fuselage of a Boeing 747 measures twice as long as the Wright brothers' first flight!

Aurora Pilot

Tanya Sprathoff

Captain Tanya Sprathoff flies an Aurora CP-140, which is one of Canada's Maritime patrol aircraft. She is also a crew commander and leads a team of up to 13 personnel.

Tanya's missions involve conducting anti-submarine warfare, and patrolling and enforcing Canada's 200-mile fishing limit. She also does surface surveillance and monitoring of Maritime shipping traffic, and she flies patrols over the Arctic for sovereignty control.

She enjoys the lifestyle that combines her love of flying with the strategic-thinking challenges inherent in missions such as anti-submarine warfare. In addition, she appreciates working with a high-calibre, professional crew.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$45,000 to $75,000, depending on the number of years spent working in the Canadian Forces.

Education
Transport Canada Approved Pilot Training and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Typical Work Schedule
7 days on/3 days off, then 7 days on/ 4 days off. Normally 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but if it's a flying day, it could be anytime throughout a 24-hour period.

Advice
"Don't let anyone discourage you or deter you along the way. Be prepared to work hard to reach your goals."

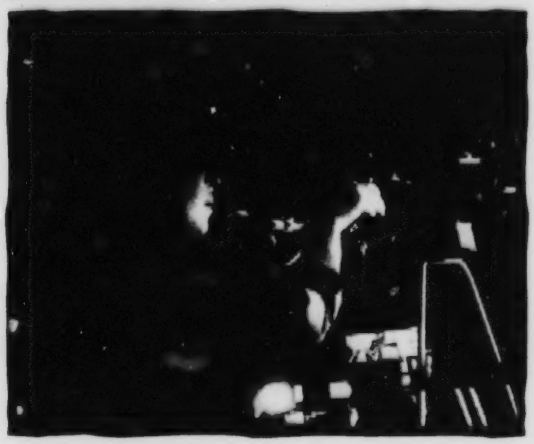
Factoids

1. In Québec, less than 3% of the pilots, flight navigators and flying instructors in the air transportation industry are women.

2. Canada's world-renowned precision aerobatic team, the Snowbirds, fly Canadair CT-114 [illegible] the same jet used for basic pilot training.

Aircraft Mechanic

Isabelle Marsan



Propelled by a love for aviation and fueled with encouragement from her mother, Isabelle affirmed her career path when she logged on as the third female Aircraft Mechanic with Air Canada.

Isabelle works on all systems of commercial airplanes: flight controls, hydraulic systems, landing gear, engines (exterior only), pressurization systems, security systems, and fuel tanks.

Eventually, when she is licensed by the Ministry of Transport, she will be assigned specific systems for which she will be responsible.

Isabelle recognizes that her job as an aircraft mechanic is physically demanding, since it involves both carrying and installing parts. She also finds her work mentally stimulating because it requires her to learn every system on the plane.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
The starting salary at Air Canada is $16 to $17 per hour with full benefits.

Education
Diploma of College Studies (DCS) in Aircraft Maintenance.

Typical Work Schedule
One week days then one week nights.

Advice
"If you love aviation, enjoy manual labour, and like technical knowledge, then this career will present wonderful new opportunities!"

Factoids

1. Apprentices and aviation technicians registered with the Canadian Aviation Maintenance Council meet the national standards for employment across Canada.
2. Over two dozen vocational and technical education programs lead to careers in the [illegible] industry.

Aircraft Structures Mechanic Answers

Describe a typical day.

I look for corrosion on the planes, do inspections and remove damaged parts. I also fabricate and rivet parts together.

What education is required?

Two-year technical school program (diploma certification).

What do you think the best part about this job is?

Looking at the completed projects! In particular, the hands-on work is very rewarding.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Shift work can be frustrating.

What is the salary range for this position?

Starting apprentice: $12 to $16 per hour. Licensed mechanic: $25 to $30 per hour.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

As a licensed mechanic, I can work anywhere in the world.

Aurora Pilot Answers

Describe a typical day.

I fly an Aurora CP-140 and command a crew of 13.

What education is required?

A bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Pilot Training.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

I love flying a powerful machine like the Aurora and working with a high-calibre, professional crew.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

The weather sometimes prevents flying.

What is the salary range for this position?

Anywhere from $45,000 to $75,000, depending on the number of years of experience.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

My flying skills are completely transferable to any airline. My leadership and supervisory skills are also useful to anyone in business.

Aircraft Mechanic Answers

Describe a typical day.

I work on all systems of commercial airplanes: flight controls, hydraulic systems, landing gear, engines (exterior only), pressurization systems, security systems, and fuel tanks.

What education is required?

Diploma certification in Aircraft Maintenance.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

I love planes. Every time I see a plane take off, I'm always amazed that such a heavy thing can fly! Also, I really like mechanical work, so the job is very interesting to me.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

It is physically more demanding than sheet metal work – you have to carry and install parts. Mentally, you have to learn every system on the plane, so you are constantly learning.

What is the salary range for this position?

Starting salary is $16 to $17/hour. Air Canada provides full benefits, pension plan and travel passes.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could become a foreperson or an inspector or work in research or for the Department of Transport as an accident investigator.

Canadian Forces Careers

This video shows how one can go about creating a challenging and rewarding career in Canada's military.

Few people realize that the Canadian Forces, with approximately 90,000 personnel, is the second largest employer in Canada!

Currently, 60,000 regular personnel and 30,000 reserve members make up our military force. In addition, 18,000 civilian personnel are employed in the Department of National Defence.

While the military exists to defend Canada, contribute to world peace, and protect our country's interests abroad, it also provides valuable assistance during national emergencies such as the Manitoba Flood and the 1998 Ice Storm.

Overview

Navy
Kathleen Olinskie
Naval Combat Information Operator
Halifax, NS

Army
Stacey Finlay
Army Infantry Soldier
Edmonton, AB

Airforce (reserves)
Nicole Wamboldt
Electrical Distribution Technologist
Bridgewater, NS

Factoids

1. There are over 80 different military occupations in the Canadian Forces.
2. The Navy patrols over 11 million square kilometres of Canada's oceans.

Naval Combat Information Operator

Kathleen Olinskie

Master Seaman Kathleen Olinskie was fortunate to be in the first unit to accept women in naval at-sea trades.

As a Naval Combat Information Operator on-board the HMCS Montreal, Kathleen is charged with the responsibility of monitoring, coordinating and disseminating all combat information.

Using a number of tools that include sonar, radar, radio links and airborne sensors, Kathleen plays a pivotal role in the ship's operations room.

Ultimately, she ensures that incoming combat information is confirmed, analyzed and delivered to the right person, at the right time.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$40,000 to $45,000 including sea pay.

Education
Trade qualification in Esquimalt, BC, for a few months. Kathleen's choice of trades was dependent on her aptitude tests.

Typical Work Schedule
At sea, they only have time to eat, sleep and work.

Advice
"Don't be deterred."

Factoids

1. Including sea pay, and considering Kathleen's years of experience, her annual salary can reach $45,000.
2. In 1954, a Canadian naval vessel was the first ship to circumnavigate North America.

Army Infantry Soldier

Stacey Finlay

As one of only six women in Canada to graduate from Battle School, Private Stacey Finlay has pioneered new ground as an Infantry soldier in the Canadian Forces.

What initially attracted Stacey to this position was her search for the ultimate challenge. Joining the military had been on her mind for some time, and she finally arrived at a point in her life when she was ready for it. The demands of the Infantry offer the ultimate in mental and physical stress. Every day, Stacey strives to do her best despite the extreme physical requirements.

A typical day for Stacey involves physical training, taking courses, maintaining weapons, and learning about international law and the Geneva Convention.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
A basic recruit starts at $1,300 per month. As you progress through promotions, you can reach $2,800 per month as a private.

Education
Degree in Criminology, Military Basic Training.

Typical Work Schedule
Regular 5-day week with variations depending on exercises.

Advice
"If you are looking to challenge yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally, then the military is for you. It is the hardest thing that you will ever do. You will learn things that you just can't get in the civilian world."

Factoids

1. Infantry soldiers are trained to fight in airmobile, amphibious, environmental and other special operations.
2. Québec's military personnel totals 17,244. Women represent 14% of the staff in occupations unique to the Canadian Forces.

Electrical Distribution Technologist

Nicole Wamboldt

Private Nicole Wamboldt is part of a Canadian Forces reserve unit. Nicole's part-time military training has provided her with an excellent career as an Electrical Distribution Technologist.

Before being accepted into the military's training program, Nicole had to pass a seven-day assessment to determine her capabilities, including her ability to climb hydro poles up to 30 metres in height and transmission towers that were even higher.

Some of Nicole's duties involve renovating buildings and working on community projects. Since the military believes in multi-training, her job also includes carpentry and metal-working.

On Thursday evenings, Nicole participates in parade night. During this time, she does drills and field training which includes map and compass reading, ethics, hygiene in the field, and training in weapons and GPS.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Entry level pays between $63 and $69 per day.

Education
Ten weeks of basic training, and electrical training at a community college.

Typical Work Schedule
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 5 days a week. The Reserves guarantee 14 days of work per month.

Advice
"Working in the military reserves is a great way to get a trade and be paid for doing so. It's also a great confidence builder, and keeps you in excellent shape. It's a great opportunity for anyone."

Factoids

1. Nicole works in one of seven construction engineering occupations which supply all construction, civil, electrical, and mechanical services to the Canadian Forces.
2. Military reserve units are located across Canada, offering weekend, part-time and full-time employment for their members.

Naval Combat Information Operator Answers

Describe a typical day.

I gather combat information through radio links, radar, sensors, sonar and other assets such as aircraft, then display and disseminate it to the appropriate people.

What education is required?

I went to recruit school, then trade qualification. My choice of trades was dependent on my aptitude tests.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

Travelling. The chance to meet new people and to view the countries and lifestyles of those people.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Being away for long periods of time is hard on a family — making it difficult to maintain a relationship. You must be very independent.

What is the salary range for this position?

$40,000 to $45,000 per year.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

The leadership skills are good for any role in business. The trade is also an avenue to Air Traffic Controller or Harbourmaster.

Army Infantry Soldier Answers

Describe a typical day.

Physical training, taking courses, maintaining our weapons, and learning about international law and the Geneva Convention.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

What initially attracted me to this position was that I was looking for the ultimate challenge. Infantry offers the ultimate in mental and physical stress. Every day, I have to strive to do the best that I can.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Sometimes certain people don't have the interpersonal skills they should have when dealing with you.

What is the salary range for this position?

A basic recruit starts at $1,300 per month. As you progress through promotions, you can reach $2,800 per month as a private.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

You learn accountability, teamwork, adaptability and discipline, which are useful in any other trade. In the military, you also learn to overcome adversity, which is a great lesson for life in general.

Electrical Distribution Technologist Answers

Describe a typical day.

My duties can involve carpentry, electrical work, or metal work. I could be renovating a building or working on a community project.

What education is required?

Ten weeks of basic training, and electrical training at a community college.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

The opportunity to travel. Being able to see the rest of your country is really cool!

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

I hate ironing my uniform! I like to take pride in my uniform, but I still hate ironing.

What is the salary range for this position?

An entry-level position pays between $63 and $69 per day.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could be an electrician in the civilian world or I could go on NATO and UN tours.

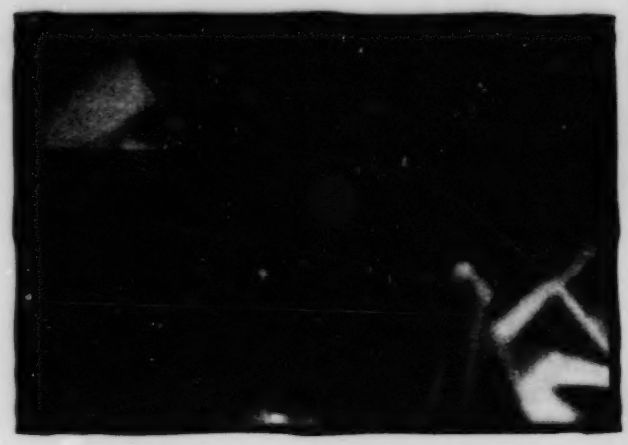
Construction Careers

This video highlights the career opportunities that exist in the construction industry.

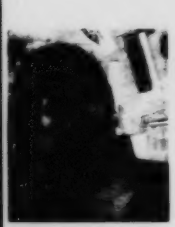
Construction in Canada accounts for 12% of the national economy. It employs more than 850,000 Canadians and pays out more than $31 billion in annual wages.

Despite these impressive figures, only 11% of construction employees are women. Yet, while many young women may have overlooked this career, not all have!

Let's meet three women who secured their blueprint for success when they nailed down careers in the construction industry.



Overview



Menyui Leung
Welder
Vancouver, BC

Susy Zaric
Carpenter
Vancouver, BC

Luce Gregoire
Electrician
Longueuil, QC

Factoids

1. Some 90% to 95% of the construction industry is comprised of small businesses with under 20 employees.
2. For every new construction job, three other jobs are created in the general economy.

Welder

Menyui Leung

Menyui Leung invested two years in university before deciding she wanted to actually see the results of her efforts at the end of the day. She felt a career in the trades would offer her something more concrete.

Menyui has always worked in physically demanding jobs, so the heavy equipment and cramped spaces don't bother her too much. She says a spool of welding wire weighs about 9 kilograms, and the welder is fairly heavy. She has to be careful walking over surfaces which are rarely level.

Although becoming a welder was a leap of faith for Menyui, any preconceptions she had about the industry were demolished once her new career began.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Welders can earn as much as $50,000 per year. That can rise to $80,000 annually, if they are willing to put in long hours, particularly in remote areas.

Education
Welding courses at technical school, then an apprenticeship program.

Typical Work Schedule
Welders can be employed in a variety of work environments, but most follow a typical Monday to Friday work week.

Advice
"Welding can be very creative, just like sewing or artwork. I would encourage other women to try it."

Factoids

1. With a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS), women can earn an average weekly salary of $549. Welders can earn as much as $50,000 a year or even $80,000 in remote areas.
2. Since 1995, Québec's *Hats Off to You!* contest has encouraged and assisted women in [illegible] traditional career choices.

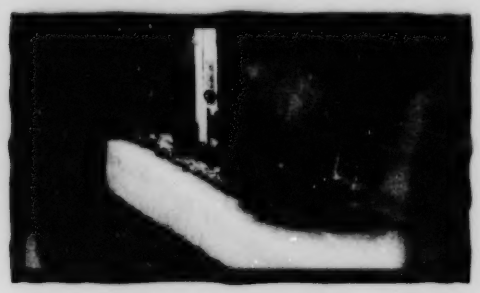
Carpenter

Susy Zaric

After spending years in an office environment, Susy Zaric decided it would be more interesting to work on buildings rather than just in them. Her decision was based on a continued fascination with carpentry. Hours of watching TV programs about home repairs paid off when she began her trades training.

Susy works as an apprentice carpenter for a construction company that specializes in water-damage repair. She removes water-damaged wood, does clean up, assists carpenters and measures and cuts wood.

For Susy, the rewards of her job come from the challenges encountered when she works in restorations. She feels proud when she drives by a building that she has helped to fix.



Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Apprentice carpenters make between $25,000 and $31,000 annually. Their salary doubles after they are certified.

Education
Women in Trades program in carpentry.

Typical Work Schedule
Outside carpentry work is very weather-dependent, so it tends to require long hours during spring and summer.

Advice
"Go for it! Now that I'm doing this, I don't know why there aren't more women in this industry. It's a lot easier than I thought it was going to be."

Factoids

1. Less than 4% of carpenters are women.
2. Québec's construction industry has an equal opportunities program for female workers. Its [illegible] the number of women in construction from 0.2% to 2% by 2006.

Electrician

Luce Gregoire

Luce Gregoire's mother wasn't surprised when Luce switched careers from cinema arts to trades electrician. In fact, she gave Luce a lot of support and encouragement.

It wasn't a snap decision. Luce took an eight-week orientation course to see which trade most sparked her interest. Today, she is totally wired into her career, working on transformers, motors, switches, lights, and heating equipment.

Luce is a first-year apprentice electrician. Her job involves making conduit runs, connecting lines, drilling, putting lines in conduits, and installing transformers, motors, switches, lights, heating, and thermostats. In the past, she has fixed street lights, traffic lights, and transformers.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Luce is currently making $26,000 per year. This will double once she obtains her competency card.

Education
Diploma in electricity and construction.

Typical Work Schedule
40 hours per week.

Advice
"I would recommend this to other women who have manual dexterity, patience and good problem-solving and troubleshooting skills. They must also be able to deal with men."

Factoids

1. Luce is currently making $26,000 per year. This will double once she obtains her competency card.
2. Less than 2% of Québec's electricians are women.

Welder Answers

Describe a typical day.

My charge hand tells me where I'm going to work, the size of the welds, and what preparatory work is needed. I clean the joint, weld it, sand away any sharp edges and check for any imperfections.

What education is required?

Welding entry-level C course at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

Welding has a variety of applications from heavy-engineered industrial material to objects that are artistic due to their esthetics and functionality. I think welding is a skill that both women and men can excel at.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

The equipment is heavy and the work spaces are cramped.

What is the salary range for this position?

If you are willing to work long hours in remote places, you can easily make $50,000 to $80,000 per year.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

Technically, welding can travel with you anywhere around the world, making for a very secure future!

Carpenter Answers

Describe a typical day.

I work on the structural components of buildings to remove any rot from water-damaged wood. I measure and cut the wood and assist the carpenter.

What education is required?

Women in Trades program in carpentry.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

It's challenging to work in restorations since you have to problem-solve how to fix the damage. Even when you have the exterior off, you may not be able to see all the damage. I'm so proud to drive by a building that I helped to fix!

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

The weather is a real headache in this type of job. You have to dress for the climate if you're working outside and working in the rain isn't fun.

What is the salary range for this position?

Apprentice carpenter: $12 to $15 per hour. Journeyman carpenter: $25 to $30 per hour.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could start my own business, or do home renovations. There are also different kinds of carpentry I could do such as finishing, form work or construction.

Electrician Answers

Describe a typical day.

I make conduit runs, connect lines, drill, put lines in conduits, and install transformers, motors, switches, lights, heating, and thermostats.

What education is required?

A DVS in Electricity and Construction.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

The satisfaction of having learned something new and done it well. Outside jobs in the summer are very nice!

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

If it's cold on an outside job, you have to dress warmly. So far, it hasn't been too physical, but you definitely need to be in shape.

What is the salary range for this position?

Apprentice electrician: $12.50 per hour. Electrician: $25 per hour.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

Electricians can start their own business, stay at a company for a long time, or do contract work.

Food Services Careers

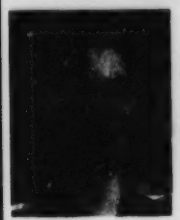
We've cooked up a great profile for you on the culinary arts. Our "career menu" includes a baker, a butcher and a chef.

On average, women fill less than 30% of food services positions. Yet, the industry employs nearly a million Canadians, so there is plenty of opportunity. The food services industry is the third largest private sector employer in Canada.

Overview

Heather Irvine
Baker
Vancouver, BC

Josée Bagdadi
Butcher
Montréal, QC



Lisa Gardin
Chef
Vancouver, BC

Factoids

1. In total, 922,000 Canadians work in the food service industry.
2. The average Canadian annually spends $1,143 eating out.
3. Sixty-five per cent of all home deliveries include pizza.
4. [illegible] per cent of Canadian restaurants are independently owned and operated.

Baker

Heather Irvine

Choosing a career in high school was a real challenge for Heather. With so many different interests to pursue, she eventually decided on commercial baking, drawn by her love of food and her memories of baking bread at home with her mom.

Heather shapes and bakes bread for Terra Breads. She believes it is a good industry to be in because people will always want good quality baked goods. Artisan breads will never be replaced by automated factories, and you can always bake for restaurants, cruise ships, hotels, and caterers.

One of Heather's future goals is to have a catering business from her home. In the meantime, she is learning the ropes and being rewarded daily with the knowledge that people really enjoy the results of her work.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$12 per hour, increases with experience, responsibilities, and certifications.

Education
Ten-month vocational training program.

Typical Work Schedule
Approximately 3 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Advice
"It's hard work, but very rewarding. If you like working with food, it's a great job."

Factoids

1. The specialty bread market is growing rapidly in Québec. A vocational diploma in commercial baking leads to many career opportunities.
2. It seems everyone's mom has done baking at home, yet 70% of commercial bakers are men!

Butcher

Josée Bagdadi

As a gourmet butcher, Josée debones, cuts, slices and grinds meat. She prepares rump roasts and fancy, expensive types of meat. She also advises customers on how to cook meats and gives them recipes.

According to Josée, it is generally difficult to find good butchers. She feels that women have a lot to offer in this field.

She admits that to succeed as a female butcher in this male-dominated field, you have to be tough emotionally. However, she gets along really well with her co-workers and with the many customers that value her work. Not surprisingly, she finds it a particular bonus to understand cooking.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$11.25 an hour with benefits.

Education
Diploma in Butchery.

Typical Work Schedule
5 days a week, 40 hours per week.

Advice
"I would encourage women to enter this field, but you have to be able to take a joke, and you have to have a mean streak to defend yourself or you won't last."

Factoids

1. Only 22% of Québec's wholesale and retail butchers and meat cutters are women.
2. Students in the butchery program (DVS) also learn to make sausages and delicatessen products.

Chef

Lisa Gardin

As a young girl, Lisa spent many hours in the family kitchen, helping to make everything from pot roast to candy suckers. Her interest in a culinary career was confirmed when she took part in a high school co-op program at a hotel. She did so well, the hotel hired her as an apprentice!

Her duties include working at the pastry station preparing desserts, and she makes complimentary cookies for the hotel rooms and biscotti for the cappuccino bars. For dinner, she makes dessert soufflés.

Once Lisa completes her apprenticeship, she plans to travel throughout Europe. Ultimately, she would like to open her own restaurant – every chef's dream!

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
A top chef can make between $50,000 and $100,000 per year. A first-year apprentice makes approximately $10 per hour.

Education
Training for one month a year for three years at a community college, while working with a qualified chef.

Typical Work Schedule
Lisa is paid for 40 hours of work per week, but she often works 60.

Advice
"The food industry is not easy to be in. You either love it or you hate it!"

Factoids

1. Did you know that cheesecake was served to the first Olympic athletes in Greece as long ago as 776 BC?
2. Chefs can also write cookbooks and food columns, consult, or start their own restaurants.

Baker Answers

Describe a typical day.

As a baker's helper, I shape and bake the loaves of bread, pastries, and focaccia for the day.

What education is required?

Vancouver Community College's 10-month program taught a variety of baking courses, not just bread baking. They also taught pies and baked goods, cakes and cake decorating.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

I really enjoy every part of my job. For anyone who enjoys working with food, to see the end result so quickly is really great. Also, it is wonderful to see people enjoying the results of what you just did.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Sometimes the hours are a bit tiring, but I don't have much of a problem with it. I can usually adjust my sleeping pattern quite easily.

What is the salary range for this position?

$12 per hour, increases with more experience, responsibilities, and certifications.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I have baked and decorated wedding cakes. I have the qualifications to make lateral moves into other baking situations such as restaurants etc.

Butcher Answers

Describe a typical day.

I debone veal from the hip. I cut, slice, and grind meat and prepare rump roasts and fancy, expensive types of meat. I also explain to customers how to cook, and give them recipes. When clients come and see me, they may choose cuts from the counter or ask me to make up something special for them.

What education is required?

Diploma certification in Butchery at École Calixa Lavallée in Montréal North.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

I love knowing that I helped my clients and that they had a great meal.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

You have to be in good shape, be able to lift heavy things and get used to standing long periods on your feet. The butchers in the store didn't really accept me at first, but now they do.

What is the salary range for this position?

$11.25 per hour, unionized, with raises every 6 months, pension plan, dental benefits, etc.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could move to Assistant Manager (cuts less meat), then Meat Manager (doesn't cut, more managerial).

Chef Answers

Describe a typical day.

On an average day, I arrive between 5:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. at the hotel to start making the food for the day. Right now I am working on the pastry station so I have to get the desserts ready. I make complimentary cookies for the hotel rooms and biscotti for the cappuccino bars. For dinner, I make dessert soufflés.

What education is required?

You can either take a one-year course at a community college and then do your apprenticeship, or you can do what I've done, work for three years plus take courses at the college one month a year.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

I have a real passion for this job. It's very challenging to do it and to do it well. I love the self-satisfaction of managing a busy season.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

When some co-workers are not as dedicated as others are. Right now, we are a four-diamond restaurant and we are striving to become a five-diamond one, so it's hard when someone doesn't take that little extra time to make the food perfect.

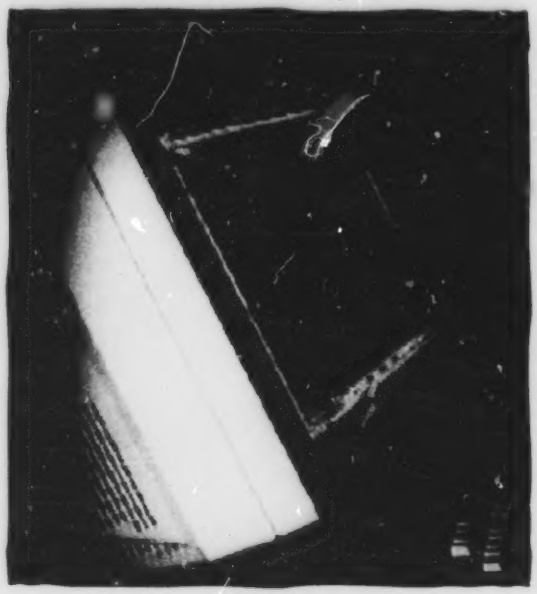
What is the salary range for this position?

A starting apprentice makes about $10 per hour. A top-end chef can earn $50,000 to $100,000 per year.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I can use my skills in the private sphere — teaching cooking classes, catering and cake decorating.

Engineering Careers



This video examines engineering careers from three different angles: physics, environmental science and computer science.

Detailed calculations show that an engineering career offers greater than average employment opportunities and wages. Despite this relevant data, women are still in the minority in this field.

Many high schools now actively encourage girls to consider an engineering career, which has led to rising female enrollment rates in university engineering programs.

Overview

Elizabeth Nethery
Product Support Engineer
Vancouver, BC

Elisabeth Paul
Software Engineer
Vancouver, BC

Daisy Lung
Bio-Resource Engineer
Vancouver, BC

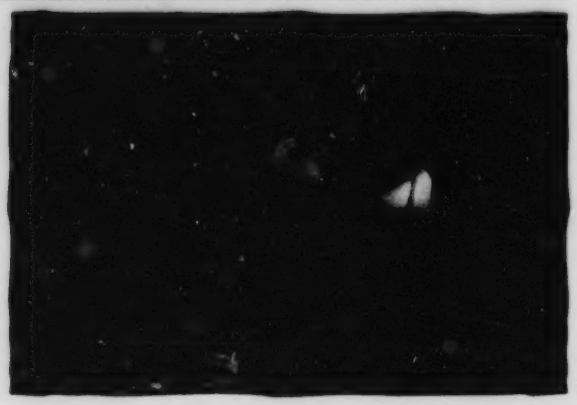
Factoids

1. Studies show that there is a definite gender bias toward boys when teaching sciences in secondary schools. More schools are actively striving to involve girls in these fields.

2. Québec's female engineers are, on average, ten years younger than their male colleagues.

Product Support Engineer

Elizabeth Nethery



With a degree in Physics Engineering, Elizabeth earns a good salary and enjoys a high level of job satisfaction. She helps people regain the use of their limbs with prosthetics.

Her duties include product testing and customization, as well as troubleshooting with customers who may not have a technical background.

Elizabeth recognized that an engineering degree would provide the best opportunity for employment, so she specialized in sciences. Her degree attracts industries that produce electrical control systems, robotics and other high-tech products.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Elizabeth's position has a salary range of $38,000 to $48,000 per year.

Education
Engineering Degree in Physics.

Typical Work Schedule
40 hours per week.

Advice
"Dream Big. You can do anything; you just have to find what you want to do. Don't be afraid to try. You'll never know if you like it until you try, and you can always change careers, especially if you can make a decent living while you're doing it."

Factoids

1. Elizabeth's current position has a salary range of $38,000 to $48,000 annually.
2. In Québec, only 16% of computer engineers are women.

Software Engineer

Elisabeth Paul

Elisabeth Paul is part of the Space Missions Group at Macdonald Dettwiler. She designs software that is used by the Canadarm on international space projects.

After graduating, Elisabeth found an entry-level position that started at more than $40,000 per year! She has an excellent career and a good life right here on Earth!

Elisabeth particularly enjoys the design portion of her work. It gives her more responsibility and she finds it interesting to be involved right at the beginning on the architecture. From there, you get to do the computer coding and the testing.

The nice thing about engineering is that it offers a lot of flexibility and options for specialization. The flexibility is an aspect of her job that Elisabeth really appreciates.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Starting salary is approximately $40,000 per year with full benefits.

Education
Engineering Degree in Computer Science.

Typical Work Schedule
5 days a week, 40 hours per week with flex time.

Advice
"Stand up for yourself, be strong and confident."

Factoids

1. The Canadarm weighs about 411 kilograms on Earth, but can move cargo in space weighing close to 30,000 kilograms!
2. Eight per cent of Québec's aerospace engineers are women.

Bio-Resource Engineer

Daisy Lung

Daisy Lung is part of a site investigation team that conducts environmental assessments for real estate clients.

It's a job that Daisy really digs! It gets her out of the office and onto a site. She uses the latest technology to identify environmental problems. Then, a strategy can be developed to clean up the contamination so that the land can be used again.

A few months after graduating from university, Daisy completed a job search program, which involved finding an eight-week job placement at a company in her field of study. After the eight weeks, she was officially hired at NEXT Environmental.

Daisy's work is good for the environment and the economy. Her efforts help to clean up land and to increase its value.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Starting salary is about $30,000 per year.

Education
Bachelor's degree in Bio-Resource Engineering.

Typical Work Schedule
5 days a week, 40 hours per week.

Advice
"Talk to someone in the field. If you have an opportunity to do a placement for career prep, then do it. Look into the university calendars and make sure you take the necessary courses to get into the engineering program."

Factoids

1. The environment is one of the most popular fields of engineering for women. However, they continue to be underrepresented in geology and geodesy.
2. The average weekly salary of a full-time, university-educated engineer is about $659.

Product Support Engineer Answers

Describe a typical day.

The company I work for produces software for the prosthetics and orthotics industry. I'm mostly involved with technical/customer support, product testing and customization.

What education is required?

An Engineering degree in Physics from the University of British Columbia.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

I really wanted to work in an engineering role that creates a product that helps people. This job has an interesting application of technology that directly helps people.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

I wish I was doing more engineering work that was a little more technical, but I'm still on the learning curve — so it's not an issue.

What is the salary range for this position?

Starting salary ranges from $38,000 to $48,000 per year.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I have a very broad degree, which can be useful in industries that produce electrical control systems, robotics and other high-tech products.

Software Engineer Answers

Describe a typical day.

I'm developing the computer software that operates the Canadarm for the International Space Station. The arm is designed to build and maintain the Space Station.

What education is required?

I went to École Polytechnique in Montreal and received an Engineering degree in Computer Science.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

Every time I see the Canadarm operating, I'm thrilled that the software I helped to develop is working.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

In this business, there are a lot of men and a lot of jokes. The best thing to do is to see the person and deal with the issue right away. It usually doesn't present a big problem.

What is the salary range for this position?

Starting salary is $40,000 annually plus full benefits and stock options.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could develop different types of software to be used in different applications.

Bio-Resource Engineer Answers

Describe a typical day.

I'm part of the Site Investigation Team, which investigates potential environmental concerns at different properties. We investigate sites mainly for real estate purposes, so when someone is buying land, or the bank is financing a purchase, they get us to check the land before purchasing.

What education is required?

A Bachelor's degree in Bio-Resource Engineering from the University of British Columbia.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

I like having the chance to work both inside and outside of the office. Staring into a computer, day after day, all day long, is not much fun.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Often the clients wait until the last minute to do the investigation. This limits the time we have to work on the projects, so we usually have pretty tight deadlines.

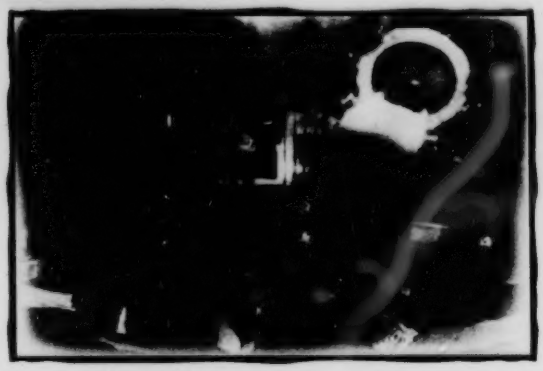
What is the salary range for this position?

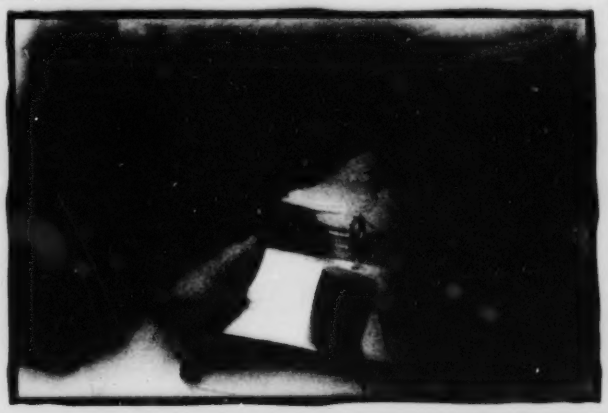
Entry-level starts in the low $30,000s.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

Many of my skills are transferable, such as my technical-writing skills, my ability to deal with clients, and my ability to get a job done within the budget.

Media Careers





This video focuses on the media and entertainment industry. It's a huge business that encompasses everything from movies to video games, CD-ROMs, DVDs and the Internet.

There are a vast array of careers behind the camera, in digital post-production and in animation. In the movie business, Canada's reputation as "Hollywood North" means there's also a wealth of opportunity, right here at home.

Overview

Andrea Dixon
Motion Picture Colourist
Vancouver, BC

Stefanie Gignac
Animation Storyboard Artist
Montréal, QC

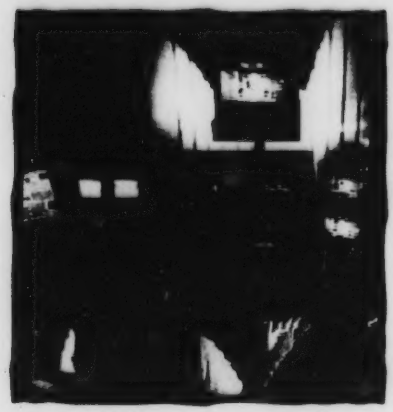
Marie-France Coallier
Photojournalist
Montréal, QC

Factoids

1. The Canadian film industry is expanding because of the growth of new specialty channels and the need for Canadian content.
2. Vancouver is the second largest motion picture production centre outside of Los Angeles.

Motion Picture Colourist

Andrea Dixon



When Andrea received her first camera at the age of 16, she never dreamed that her interest in photography would one day result in a high-tech creative job in film post-production. Now she moves viewers between fantasy and reality with the flick of a wrist.

Andrea is a motion picture colourist who works on shows such as X-Files, Millennium and Stargate-SG1. She turns photographic images into electronic images for colour correction.

Andrea says that when you start out in this business, you can expect long and odd hours. The goal for many people is to get established and enjoy the creative freedom and financial benefits this type of work brings.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Approximately $60,000 and up.

Education
Television Production Program (diploma).

Typical Work Schedule
Long, and sometimes odd hours.

Advice
"Get experience at cable stations, use your contacts, and work hard."

Factoids

1. The number of Montréal-area multimedia production businesses has risen from 25 to 250 in recent years. These companies now employ over 3,000 people.
2. Special effects have come a long way thanks to computers with sufficient speed and memory to manipulate massive digital images.

Animation Storyboard Artist

Stefanie Gignac

Stefanie grew up fascinated by Star Wars and Disney classics – anything with visual effects. Today, she has the best of both worlds. Stefanie works with her sister in the comfort of her home, laying out storyboard blueprints for many popular animation projects, including one that won two Emmys for best children's animation.

Many freelance animators are paid by piecework (so much per series of drawings). They are responsible for organizing their work and delivering on time. You have to be able to work independently in this business. That's a feature Stefanie really enjoys, even though it requires a lot of discipline.

The product Stefanie creates comes from her fingertips and her mind. The process is both creative and logical. The job is driven as much by her business sense, as it is by her innate ability to bring characters to life.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$45,000 to $80,000.

Education
Classical Animation diploma (3-year program).

Typical Work Schedule
As a freelancer, Stefanie works as much as she needs to get the job done on time.

Advice
"It's a great job! Hard, but fulfilling - and very creative. You can earn a good living if you are willing to commit to crazy schedules."

Factoids

1. Many vocational and technical programs in Québec prepare students to work in multimedia. Countries from around the world want to do co-productions with Canadian animation firms. We're that good!
2. "The Flintstones" was the first prime-time animated series. "The Simpsons" is the [illegible]-running animated series.

Photojournalist

Marie-France Coallier

Photojournalist Marie-France Coallier knows what it takes to get the shot. She is a press photographer for *The Gazette* in Montréal. Sometimes, she does photo essays, or short articles on a subject accompanied by a picture. Reporting occupies a small part of the job as well. Knowledge of the story (names of people, places, etc.) is required before a caption can be written.

Marie-France knows that you have to be in good shape to do the job. Carrying up to 35 pounds of equipment at times can cause some people to develop back problems. You must be passionate, determined and have an eye for an image. Freelancers also need money to cover their initial expenses.

Marie-France has always liked drawing and the visual arts. She studied television as well as photography during her communications program. She was also a photographer for the university newspaper and found this to be very creative.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Some of the very top photographers make over $100,000 per year.

Education
Double Bachelor's degrees in Visual Arts and Communications. She also studied photography at Dawson College's Institute of Photography.

Typical Work Schedule
5 days a week, 40 hours per week.

Advice
"I would certainly recommend this to women, but first, take some photography courses and get a diploma."

Factoids

1. Today, globetrotting photojournalists shoot with a digital camera, then send the pictures back to their newspapers using e-mail and a laptop computer.

2. Industry experts estimate that only 10% of professional photographers are women.

Motion Picture Colourist Answers

Describe a typical day.

As a motion picture colourist, I turn photo images into electronic images for colour correction. Some of the shows I've worked on include X-Files and Millennium.

What education is required?

Television Production Program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

Being part of the team, having personal input on projects, and making the whole thing look wonderful are some of the rewarding parts of this job.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

The schedule can be quite demanding if you're not single. There are three shifts including a graveyard shift...with the company running almost 24 hours a day. It's also not a very active job since you're sitting down for a lot of the time.

What is the salary range for this position?

$60,000 and up, depending on your experience. Growth potential is greater than in the public sector.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

Many skills acquired along the way could be applied to other areas. However, colour-timing skills are specific to the job and equipment.

Animation Storyboard Artist Answers

Describe a typical day.

Storyboarding is the blueprint of animation. I basically turn words into pictures. I take the script and illustrate each scene in sequence with dialogue and actions.

What education is required?

Classical Animation three-year diploma program at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

My freedom. I make up my own schedule as a freelancer. It's also rewarding to watch a show I did and say, "I decided on all those cuts and angles and it looks good!"

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

The greatest frustration occurs when no ideas come to mind and I have to meet the deadline. The hours are very long and sometimes crazy – cutting into nights and weekends, so my social life can suffer.

What is the salary range for this position?

Averages $1,200 per week or $45,000 to $80,000 per year.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could work up into becoming a supervisor or director. I could also become a storybook illustrator.

Photojournalist Answers

Describe a typical day.

After taking pictures, I develop the film in an electronic darkroom. I also write a photo caption to accompany the picture, so there is a bit of reporting involved. Sometimes, I do a photo essay which is a short article on a story accompanied by a picture.

What education is required?

Double Bachelor's degrees in Visual Arts and Communications. Photography courses at the Dawson Institute of Photography.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

There is no routine. Every day is a different day. I meet people, learn from what I see, and witness historical moments. One day I'm with the poor, the next with a very famous person.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Sometimes I work nights, and with young kids, that can be tough. The deadline aspect was stressful at first, but I got used to it. Mentally, you can get upset by terrible stories — crimes with kids are very hard to handle. Fortunately, those events don't happen daily.

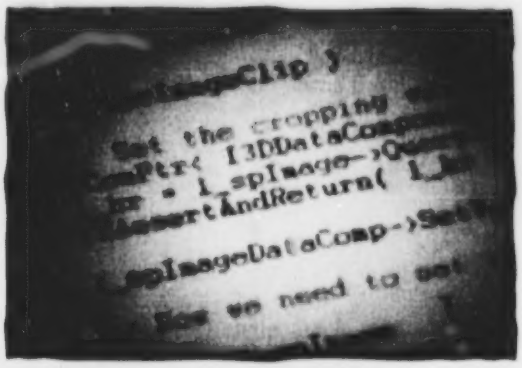
What is the salary range for this position?

The Union ensures a good starting salary. It goes up with seniority and experience. Basic benefits, pension plan, and some travel perks are included.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could become chief photographer, photo editor, or manager at any newspaper.

Information Technology Careers



This video connects you with the information technology business, Canada's fastest growing industry and one that already employs half a million Canadians. Our three feature profiles include a desktop support analyst, a software developer and a computer sales and service technician.

In a world where the number of Internet connections has doubled in just two years, it's no wonder that many companies are scrambling to hire skilled information technology workers. In fact, they actively recruit students right out of the classroom.

Overview

Shawna White
Desktop Support Analyst
Edmonton, AB

Coraleigh Hine
Computer Sales and Service Technician
Vancouver, BC

Nancy Nadeau
Software Developer
Montréal, QC

Factoids

1. Forty per cent of Canadians are already connected to the Internet. That figure should reach 60% by 2003.
2. Information Technology is Canada's fastest growing industry, employing 500,000 people.

Desktop Support Analyst

Shawna White

As a Desktop Support Analyst for TELUS Communications, Shawna provides Tier 2 support, which is the level after the help desk. This means that she actually goes to the client's computer to troubleshoot and repair the problem after the help desk has received the call. With most calls, she fixes software and assesses hardware problems. On average, she deals with 25 to 30 in-house clients a day.

Shawna is usually too busy even to stop for a breather. Clients are always in a hurry to have their computers fixed and everybody wants a piece of her time right away. Big problems or small, once they're fixed, she's the heroine. Talk about instant gratification!

Shawna finds it very rewarding to please a customer by solving a really tough problem quickly. She also enjoys the personal interaction. Everyone has her number and they all call her! Getting a "thank-you" is another nice bonus.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
With overtime, Shawna can make more than $59,000 annually.

Education
Diploma in Computer Systems Technology.

Typical Work Schedule
40 hours per week, but lots of overtime.

Advice
"This career choice offers great potential for growth and diversity. I would definitely recommend that more women get into this type of work."

Factoids

1. With overtime, Shawna can make more than $59,000 annually.
2. Less than 30% of computer systems analysts are women. Given the high demand for this specialty in Québec, this career option offers excellent prospects.

Computer Sales and Service Technician

Coraleigh Hine

If you want to buy a computer, or have one fixed, Computer Sales and Service Technician Coraleigh Hine is the person to call.

Coraleigh spends about half her workday selling computers, and the other half servicing and repairing them.

While on site, some of Coraleigh's duties involve providing customer support, installing desktop systems, software and peripheral devices, upgrading server software, and carrying out user network administration.

Coraleigh went straight from high school into a two-year training program focused on automated business equipment. In her second year she decided to specialize in computers, knowing that the career possibilities would be endless.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Varies with knowledge base, and technical skills.

Education
Two-year Automated Business Equipment Technician program.

Typical Work Schedule
Generally 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with some overtime expected.

Advice
"Follow your passion. Get an education that fits that passion and the money will follow."

Factoids

1. In the first decade of this century, there will be an estimated shortfall of 50,000 Canadian employees in information technology.
2. A lack of skilled workers is the number one barrier to the growth of information technology companies.

Software Developer

Nancy Nadeau

Nancy always liked mathematics to the point that she had even considered becoming a math teacher. But when the time came to decide on a field of study, she asked herself, "What was the future going to be?" For her, Information Technology was the answer.

Nancy works for Softimage, a provider of high-end software-based tools for the creation of digital images. She develops tools to help users create better special effects and realistic images.

Programming is the basis for everything Nancy does, so her opportunities are wide open. She enjoys keeping up with her technology. Every year she attends SIGGRAPH, a convention that showcases the latest hardware and software used in the computer graphics field.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$35,000 to $40,000 starting salary. With extensive knowledge of information technology, you make up to $100,000.

Education
Joint university degree in Mathematics and Computer Science.

Typical Work Schedule
There is an unwritten rule that you put in really long hours in the computer science world.

Advice
"I would certainly encourage other women to study computer science. There are a lot of different fields inside computer science such as computer graphics, artificial intelligence, operational research and speech recognition."

Factoids

1. Only 23% of computer programmers are women.
2. The average starting salary for a university graduate in computer science is approximately $400 per week.

Desktop Support Analyst Answers

Describe a typical day.

As a Desktop Support Analyst, I go to the client's computer to troubleshoot and repair the problem after the help desk has received the call. With most calls, I fix software and assess hardware problems.

What education is required?

Computer Systems Technology Program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

It's very rewarding to fix a really tough problem quickly and make the customer happy with the solution.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

There are times when we are so busy that there's not enough time to just sit down and take a breather. Clients are in a hurry to have their computer fixed and everybody wants a piece of your time right away. On average, I deal with 25 to 30 in-house clients a day.

What is the salary range for this position?

$47,000 to $59,000. With overtime pay, it's easy to earn the maximum.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

My skills are extremely marketable. There are many avenues that I could explore in this industry. I think it all depends on the company that you work for and what type of technical work you are interested in pursuing.

Computer Sales and Service Technician Answers

Describe a typical day.

I provide on-site customer support, install desktop systems, maintain peripheral devices, carry out user network administration, and respond to customer requests for hardware/software quotes.

What education is required?

Automated Business Equipment Technician program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology specializing in computers.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

Problem-solving. I love finding a solution to a really difficult computer problem.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Stressed-out customers with unreasonable expectations.

What is the salary range for this position?

It offers a range based on knowledge and technical skills. For example, someone who is a Novell NetWare Engineer with five years of experience can make approximately $65,000 per year.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

My skills are extremely portable. I can work in any industry on the customer side, vendor side, or for a reseller.

Software Developer Answers

Describe a typical day.

I develop tools to facilitate the life of the users of our software so they can create better special effects or images that look real. Right now I'm working on the migration between the first software Softimage created, which is called Softimage 3D, and our next generation software which is code-named "Sumatra."

What education is required?

A joint university degree in Mathematics and Computer Science.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

To see what people do with the software I develop, to see things that have never been done before. I remember when Jurassic Park was first shown, the dinosaurs looked so real!!! It's great to meet the users and exchange ideas with them — how they've used our software to do something, what new feature they would like to have, etc.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

With the long hours required in the computer industry, it's challenging to have a family.

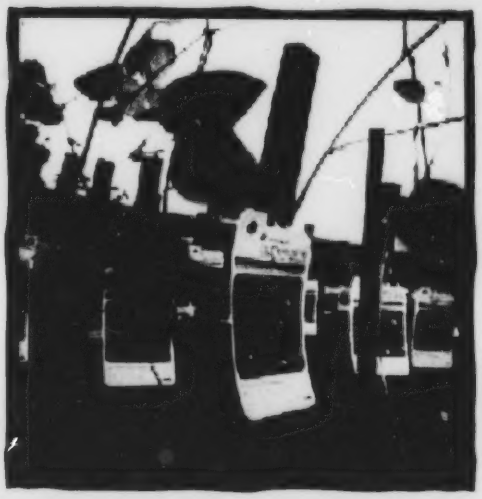
What is the salary range for this position?

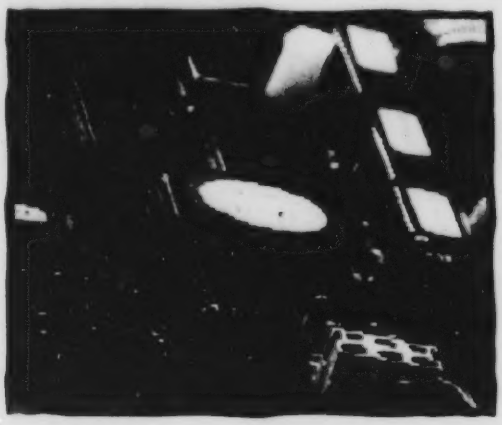
Approximately $35,000 to $40,000 starting salary. With lots of knowledge, it is easy to reach $100,000.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

With my Computer Science degree, I could move into other areas such as Computer Graphics, Artificial Intelligence, Operational Research or Speech Recognition.

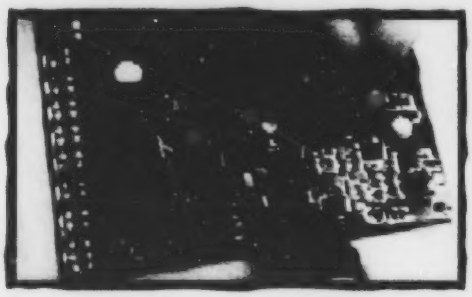
Manufacturing Careers





This video deals with manufacturing. Canadians produce some of the world's best transportation, electrical equipment and finished-lumber products. From exporting light rapid transit systems and gym equipment to growing plants, it's a field with unlimited potential!

With this in mind, we've assembled the profiles of three women who've built solid careers in manufacturing: a service technologist, a machine operator and a horticulturist.



Overview

Marnie Zimmerman
Service Technologist
Abbotsford, BC

Krystina Bouchard
Machine Operator
Franklin Centre, QC

Darlene Fitzgerald
Horticulturist
Abbotsford, BC

Factoids

1. Manufacturing employs close to 16% of the workforce in Canada.
2. The largest area of manufacturing is in transportation equipment such as cars, snowmobiles, and rapid-transit coaches.

Service Technologist

Marnie Zimmerman

Marnie Zimmerman is a Service Technologist at Delta Controls, a company that designs and manufactures heating, ventilation and air conditioning control systems (commonly referred to as HVAC). Her job is to repair the circuit boards that have failed in the field.

The most satisfying part of the job for Marnie is working quickly and efficiently. This results in customers who are happy with their service.

Marnie constantly tries to reduce the company's two-day turnaround on repairs. She admits that sometimes this goal can be challenging, especially if 70 circuit boards happen to land on her desk at once.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$25,000 to $35,000 per year. After two years of experience, this can increase to $35,000 to $40,000.

Education
Two-year electronics program specializing in instrumentation.

Typical Work Schedule
40 hours per week with flex time.

Advice
"Explore all your options. A technical career can be just as challenging and satisfying as an academic career."

Factoids

1. Marnie is currently making $30,000 per year with full benefits.
2. The second largest area of Canadian manufacturing is electrical equipment and electron-

Machine Operator

Krystina Bouchard

Krystina is a true "Jill of All Trades." With skills in carpentry, plumbing, welding, wood working and machining, there's not much that she can't fix or build! With such a varied background, it's not surprising that she found employment in the manufacturing sector, working as a machine operator for a company that produces precision aircraft engine components.

Krystina's job is to machine various metals. This includes drilling precise holes, taking excess material off using milling methods, lathe work, assembly work and doing set-ups on machines.

She notes that while the work itself is not physically demanding, it is very mentally challenging, allowing her to learn something new every day.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Approximately $30,000 depending on education and experience.

Education
Certification from Pratt & Whitney to weld.

Typical Work Schedule
8-hour days, 40-hour weeks.

Advice
"It can be a lot of fun. Also, the sooner we women advance in these fields, the less we will be stereotyped."

Factoids

1. Recent figures show that manufacturing accounts for 18.5% of Canada's Gross National Product.
2. Manufacturing employs 2.2 million Canadians. Of these, 28% are women.

Horticulturist

Darlene Fitzgerald

As a horticulturist, Darlene's job involves deciding what should be planted and when. She oversees planting and soil testing, schedules watering and fertilizing, and monitors pruning and twisting.

In addition, she supervises staff and troubleshoots problems. Her stock management duties also include computer-tracking of cuttings and experimenting with new plants and ideas.

The most rewarding aspect of Darlene's job is that she gets paid to do something she really enjoys. Her satisfaction stems from working for a good company, with good people, whose product has a reputation for good quality.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$13 to $22 an hour, depending on a person's education and experience.

Education
Horticulture Diploma Program.

Typical Work Schedule
8-hour days, 40-hour weeks.

Advice
"Talk to people in the industry, read everything you can about it, and volunteer at nurseries, greenhouses, and garden centres."

Factoids

1. Management positions in Darlene's field can pay more than $45,000 per year.
2. Horticulture is going high-tech as more and more greenhouse operators adapt to computer-controlled environments.

Service Technologist Answers

Describe a typical day.

I repair circuit boards that control heating and air-conditioning systems that have come back in from the field.

What education is required?

A two-year electronics program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology specializing in instrumentation, plus an eight-month co-op.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

Getting the job done quickly and efficiently, and having happy customers.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

The job can be a little monotonous but I'm being called upon more and more to write the technical documents regarding the systems designed by Delta Controls.

What is the salary range for this position?

Starting salary: $25,000 to $35,000. After 2 years: $35,000 to $40,000.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I have the basics of circuitry and right now could teach electronics, for example. I've got the core skills to move into other areas of electronics after picking up specialized courses.

Machine Operator Answers

Describe a typical day.

I machine various metals, e.g. drill precise holes, take excess material off using milling methods, lathe work, and assembly work, and do set-ups on machines.

What education is required?

A diploma in carpentry/construction, and a certification from Pratt & Whitney to weld.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

Seeing a hard project right through, and at the same time learning how to improve your machining skills.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

It's not the work itself, but the attitudes of people who will not recognize that I am able to do the same job as men. The work is very mentally challenging. I learn something new every day.

What is the salary range for this position?

Approximately $30,000.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could be a Machine Operator for another company, a full-time welder, or go back to carpentry school.

Horticulturist Answers

Describe a typical day.

I decide what is to be planted and when. I oversee the planting and soil testing, schedule watering and fertilizing, and monitor pruning and twisting. I also supervise staff and troubleshoot problems.

What education is required?

Horticulture Diploma Program at the University College of the Fraser Valley.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

The most rewarding aspect of my job is that I get paid to do something I really enjoy. I work for a good company, with good people, producing a product that people recognize to be of good quality.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

None really.

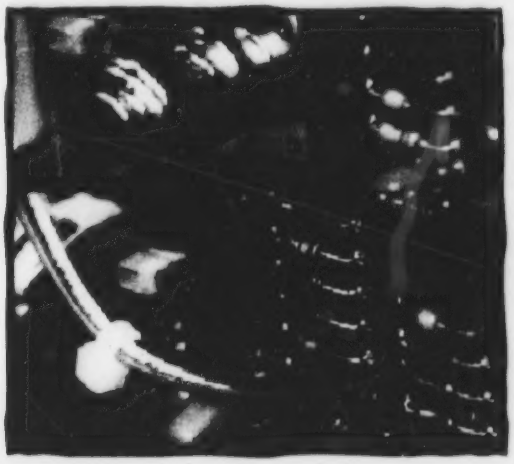
What is the salary range for this position?

$13.00 to $22.00 per hour.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

The skills I have attained both through my education and my hands-on experience could be used in other horticultural operations and in many supervisory or management positions in other industries.

Medical Services Careers



This video examines some of the more unconventional opportunities in the medical field. Although women have always played a substantial role as nurses and more recently as doctors, new careers have been born as a result of medical technology.

Health care workers are finding lucrative employment as technicians and technologists at major hospitals and private clinics.

Experts predict that the demand for health care technologists will continue to grow rapidly.

Overview

Ann Perreault
Orthotics and Prosthetics Technician
Laval, QC

Sandra Swanson
Biomedical Engineering Technologist
Vancouver, BC

Karine Fortin
Pharmaceutical Plant Manager
Saint-Hubert, QC

Factoid

1. Québec's biotechnology industry includes 227 different companies and provides some 15,000 jobs.

Orthotics and Prosthetics Technician

Ann Perreault

Ann Perreault knew that a medical career would fulfill her desire to help people, but she wasn't interested in the long hours nurses put in or the demanding education required to become a physician.

Ann's career choice as a prosthetics technician turned out to be a perfect fit. The three-year training program provided her with the tools to build her future and to help others rebuild theirs.

The company she works for produces braces and prostheses and offers services related to their supply. Ann is in charge of evaluating and measuring patients, as well as making and fitting braces.

For Ann, the most rewarding part of her job is being able to help people and to improve their quality of life.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$25,000 to $40,000; increases with experience.

Education
Three-year technical diploma in Prosthetics and Orthotics.

Typical Work Schedule
40 hours per week.

Advice
"If you have good manual dexterity, enjoy helping others, and want a challenging job, then you'd enjoy this career."

Factoids

1. High-tech robotics and nerve sensors will result in even more sophisticated prosthetics being invented in the near future.
2. As the baby boomer population acquires more leisure time, the number of prosthetics required for recreational and sports injuries is expected to increase.

Biomedical Engineering Technologist

Sandra Swanson

Sandra Swanson spent almost four years at university before diagnosing her aspirations and coming up with a different prescription: a two-year college program in Biomedical Engineering.

She works for St. Paul's Hospital, maintaining and repairing health care technology, evaluating new products, logging all the equipment that comes through the hospital, and troubleshooting equipment problems with other health care professionals.

The most rewarding aspect of her work is being able to correct an equipment problem right on the spot — so that a bed isn't closed or a surgery cancelled.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Sandra is making approximately $50,000 per year, plus benefits.

Education
Two-year program in Biomedical Engineering, four years of general university courses.

Typical Work Schedule
8 hours a days, 5 days a week.

Advice
"It's not as difficult as it looks. Take a year of general sciences at a college, then visit hospitals and do work experience there."

Factoids

1. Technical advances in health care have increased the need for specialists in equipment maintenance and repair. Many of Québec's electrical engineering technology graduates can fill that need.
2. If you want to follow Sandra's career path, you must have an interest and high marks in biology, chemistry, math and physics.

Pharmaceutical Plant Manager

Karine Fortin

In her role as plant manager for a pharmaceutical company, Karine Fortin ensures that products are being produced within specifications. The equipment used to make the products is highly technical and very sensitive. Product and equipment performance is tested regularly.

Karine plans and manages any plant expansions, as well as supervising three full-time and two part-time technicians.

Karine skipped grades and graduated from high school at age 15. She wanted to enter the military to become a pilot and get an Engineering degree, but she was too young. A year later, she went to a technical school that specialized in Engineering. Getting high marks in math and physics was a breeze for Karine, and she enjoyed the classes.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Karine is currently making over $50,000 a year, twice as much as when she started five years ago.

Education
Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Typical Work Schedule
8 hours a day, 5 days a week.

Advice
"If you think that you will like Engineering, then go for it."

Factoids

1. Advances in the manufacture of medicines will likely result in increased use of robotics, automation, and mechanized plant assembly lines — all requiring technologists and engineers to design and maintain the equipment.
2. Karine's $50,500 salary is twice what she was earning when she started five years ago!

Orthotics and Prosthetics Technician Answers

Describe a typical day.

I am in charge of evaluating and measuring patients, as well as making and fitting braces.

What education is required?

A three-year technical diploma in Orthotics and Prosthetics.

What do you think the best part about this job is ?

To be able to help people and to improve their quality of life is the most rewarding aspect of my work.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

I often work with chemical products such as contact cement glue and acrylic resin. Long-term exposure to these products can be harmful to my health.

What is the salary range for this position?

$25,000 to $40,000.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could move into management or open my own lab. With more schooling, I could go into other medical work such as physiotherapy.

Biomedical Engineering Technologist Answers

Describe a typical day.

We maintain health care technology, evaluate new products, log all the equipment that comes through the hospital, plus troubleshoot equipment with other health care professionals.

What education is required?

Two-year Biomedical Engineering program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

What do you think the best part about this job is ?

Being able to troubleshoot an equipment problem right on the spot so that a bed is not closed or a surgery cancelled.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Communication difficulties with other staff, and intermittent problems with equipment are hard to solve.

What is the salary range for this position?

Approximately $50,000 per year with full benefits.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

There are a lot of areas that I can grow into. I could work as a perfusionist, for example. Otherwise, I could go into management or work in the private sector.

Pharmaceutical Plant Manager Answers

Describe a typical day.

I'm responsible for plant maintenance including ventilation systems, purified water systems, and fire-alarm systems. I also maintain, purchase, install, and validate production equipment.

What education is required?

A bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, with a specialty in design.

What do you think the best part about this job is ?

All the different projects and responsibilities I've had the opportunity to do since I left university.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

It doesn't allow me to be specialized in any one field, and there is more project planning as opposed to very applied science. Physically, I had to learn to deal with the stress of my job.

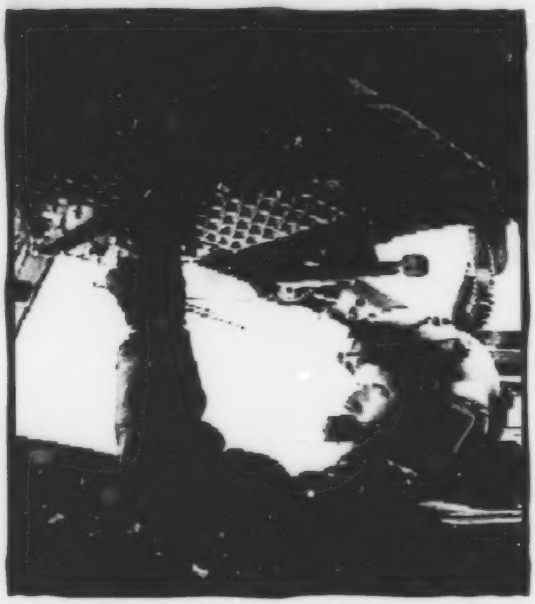
What is the salary range for this position?

Starting salary: $26,000. After 5 years: $50,500.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I have the skills to eventually become a director, VP, or president of a company and to possibly start my own company!

Protective Services Careers



This video investigates career opportunities in Protective Services. While women are present more often now in front-line and other key roles in this sector, they still form a relatively small percentage of the workforce. Still, it's better than just over 25 years ago, when there were no female police officers or military pilots.

Today, women are regularly proving their mettle in the air, on the ground and behind the scenes in a variety of challenging careers. In our lineup today, we are pleased to ID an RCMP officer, an army helicopter pilot, and a fire protection designer.

Overview

Sylvie Nault
RCMP Constable
Richmond, BC

Jamie Speiser
Army Helicopter Pilot
Loretteville, QC

Shauna Vollmer
Fire Protection Designer
Morinville, AB

Factoids

1. In Québec, a college diploma in Police Technology leads to a career in law enforcement. At present, women represent about 10% of all Québec's police officers.

2. The RCMP has more than 700 detachments across Canada, in addition to foreign postings and international peacekeeping roles.

RCMP Constable

Sylvie Nault

When Constable Sylvie Nault told her Grade 3 teacher that she wanted to be a Mountie when she grew up, the teacher said that only boys could do that! Needless to say, Sylvie – and many other women – proved to her teacher that things have changed.

Today, Sylvie works as a general duty constable, answering 911 calls for everything from barking-dog complaints to armed robberies.

To join the RCMP, you first attend a mandatory information session. Then you take a written test. If you score well, you go on to take a fitness test. Then you are interviewed by someone in recruiting. At this point, you either go on to the background check or you're out. Once you're accepted, you follow 22 weeks of intensive training.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$33,500 to $55,000.

Education
Sylvie is only a couple of courses shy of three degrees in Physical Education, Physiotherapy and Criminology. She took 22 weeks of intensive police training.

Typical Work Schedule
12-hour days; 2 days on, 2 days off.

Advice
"You should stay fit and stay focused on your goals."

Factoids

1. Just over 25 years ago, the first female constables graduated from the RCMP's training academy. Currently 2,045 women serve in the RCMP: that's 14% of "The Force."
2. To become an RCMP officer, you must complete 22 weeks of physical and academic training in Regina, followed by a six-month, on-the-job, field-training program.

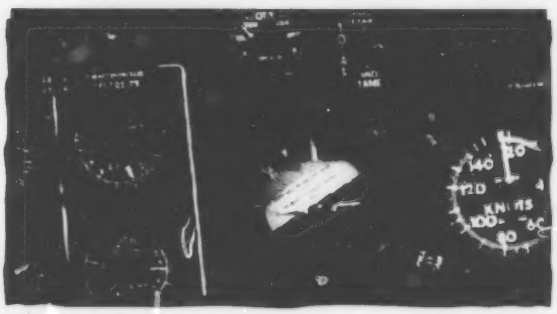
Army Helicopter Pilot

Jamie Speiser

Jamie Speiser is a pilot in the Canadian Forces. She flies Griffon helicopters and also serves as information systems officer and squadron harassment officer. As a helicopter pilot, her main role is to support the army. The army's mission requests include troop and cargo transport, reconnaissance, command and liaison between units, and medical evacuations.

Jamie has flown assistance during the Saguenay Flood and the 1998 Ice Storm. She has also been on peacekeeping missions to Bosnia and Haiti.

The opportunity to help others is what she finds most rewarding about her job.



Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$45,000 to $75,000.

Education
Degree in Computer Engineering, along with helicopter pilot training.

Typical Work Schedule
Very erratic schedule. Some months she is home a lot, others she is constantly away.

Advice
"I firmly believe women can do anything they want."

Factoids

1. The versatile Griffon helicopter has even been outfitted with thermal imaging equipment that can be used to locate forest-fire hot spots.
2. An army helicopter pilot can earn $45,000 to $75,000, depending on years of experience.

Fire Protection Designer

Shauna Vollmer

Fire protection is something you don't really think about until you actually need it. Hopefully, by then you'll have already talked with Fire Protection Designer Shauna Vollmer.

Shauna's interest in fire protection was first sparked when three kids from her community were injured in a fire.

Today, she designs protection systems for structures ranging from small apartment buildings to large industrial complexes. She provides her extensive customer base with emergency service, and inspects, maintains and carries out modifications to their fire protection systems. She schedules crews of technicians, and provides both the technicians and customers with technical fire code support.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$40,000 to $55,000 annually... plus her own car, a Cruiser!

Education
Two-year diploma program in Engineering Design and Drafting Technology.

Typical Work Schedule
40 hours a week, plus emergency on-call with a pager and cell phone 24 hours a day.

Advice
"When working in a male-dominated field, you need to sometimes think a little bit like a man."

Factoids

1. Updated building codes have significantly increased the number of sprinkler systems and other fire protection systems that need to be designed and installed in modern structures.
2. Québec currently offers vocational and technical programs in fire protection and fire safety.

RCMP Constable Answers

Describe a typical day.

As a general duty constable, I take all 911 calls and any service calls from the public, like requests for assistance or advice or help. We do pretty much anything... from a barking dog to armed robberies.

What education is required?

Twenty-two weeks of intensive police training. Post-secondary education is not necessary, but it does better your chances of getting selected into the academy.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

I would say that when you bring someone to justice...it's a cliché, but you hope you've made a difference. Plus, in the job, you have a lot of freedom. You're part of a team, but you still work independently.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Sometimes you feel the system works against you. You have to detach yourself from the ultimate outcome and realize that you have done your job, whether you agree with the ending or not.

What is the salary range for this position?

Starting salary: $33,500. After two years: $55,000.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could become an Investigator or Security Advisor in the private sector.

Army Helicopter Pilot Answers

Describe a typical day.

As a Helicopter Pilot, my main role is to support the army. Missions can be tactical (trained to go into enemy territory), but are mostly utility missions (administrative or peace-time stuff).

What education is required?

A bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from the Royal Military College in Kingston. During three of the summers, I went to pilot training. I got my Helicopter Pilot wings in 1996.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

The opportunity to help others.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

The lack of stability to plan a personal life can be frustrating. Being a pilot is an ongoing learning process. It is very demanding mentally.

What is the salary range for this position?

$45,000 to $75,000, depending on years of experience.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could stay flying in the military and go as high as captain, or if I chose civilian life, I could become an Engineer and utilize my Computer Engineering degree.

Fire Protection Designer Answers

Describe a typical day.

My job entails providing building owners with emergency service, inspections, maintenance and alterations to their fire protection systems as per their individual needs. I schedule a crew of technicians and provide both the technicians and customers with technical fire code support.

What education is required?

A two-year diploma program in Engineering Design and Drafting Technology at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

The service that my co-workers and I provide to people and organizations can save their lives and property from the devastating effects of fire.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

The work is very fast-paced. There are no breaks between jobs and therefore no time to reorganize, clean up paperwork or take a breather before the next project starts. I'm also on call with a pager and cell phone 24 hours a day and that takes some getting used to at first.

What is the salary range for this position?

$40,000 to $55,000 plus a company vehicle.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

There are opportunities in research, consulting and education, both technical and public. My design and computer drafting skills could also lead me into other types of work.

Rescue Careers

This video captures the exciting world of rescue work. From diving down to a sunken car to rescuing trapped earthquake victims, women are pursuing emergency-response careers in a number of fields.

This challenging industry often demands a high level of physical fitness, as well as constant upgrading of skills. In return, however, rescue careers offer a very real opportunity to make a difference in someone's life.

So dial in to 911 and get ready to meet a Coast Guard rescue specialist, a firefighter and a paramedic.

Overview

Julie De Grandpré
Rescue Specialist
Vancouver, BC

Pam Kryskow
Firefighter
Coquitlam, BC

Danielle Gagnon
Paramedic
Blainville, QC

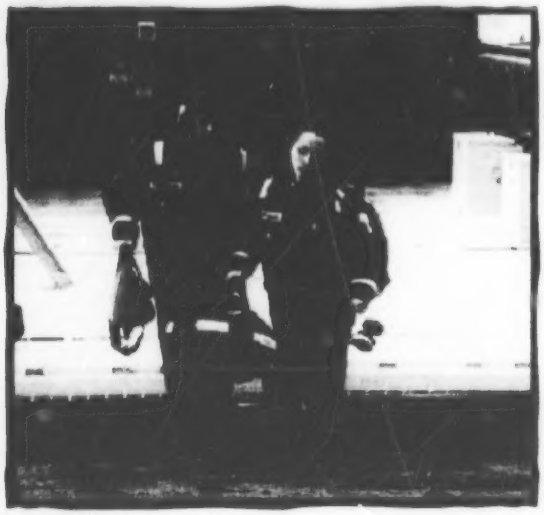
Factoids

1. The ability to work under pressure and deal with crises is critical to rescue work.

2. Being on duty weekends, evenings, and holidays is normal in this industry.

Rescue Specialist

Julie De Grandpré



Julie De Grandpré works for the Canadian Coast Guard/Hovercraft Unit as a Rescue Specialist/Diver. Her duties include everything from surface swimming to diving down to a sunken car, plane or boat wreck. Right now, she is qualified as a surface swimmer and bridge lookout. She has nearly completed her training as a rescue diver.

One of the benefits of the Coast Guard is the excellent on-the-job training. Even after Julie was hired, she was able to continue her education.

She has always lived on boats, so it was natural for her to want to work on one. Most of all, she loves the freedom of working outdoors and on the ocean. Knowing that she is part of a team that can save lives is also tremendously rewarding for her.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Approximately $33,000 per year.

Education
Three months of deckhand and marine emergency duties courses.

Typical Work Schedule
Four days on, four days off. Day shifts are 10 hours; night shifts are 14 hours.

Advice
"Ask questions! Make sure that you are serious and know a lot about the industry."

Factoid

1. The Canadian Coast Guard has its own college on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. It offers a 4-year program for certification as an officer in Marine Engineering or Navigation.

Firefighter

Pam Kryskow

The next time you see a fire truck speed by, try to imagine yourself in the driver's seat, screeching through intersections, blasting the horn and racing up to the latest emergency. That's basically a day in the life of Firefighter Pam Kryskow.

After spending four hot, dry summers fighting forest fires, Pam decided to apply for a position with a city fire department. To her surprise, she was accepted. Now, Pam works to save lives and property, instead of trees!

In addition to responding to fires and vehicle accidents, Pam is also trained for confined-space, swift-water, and high-angle rescue work. You're guaranteed excitement on this job, along with excellent pay and benefits.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
A first class firefighter makes about $52,000 annually, with full medical/dental benefits, and a good pension.

Education
Criminology degree, firefighter training.

Typical Work Schedule
4 days on, 4 days off. Two 10-hour days followed by two 14-hour nights.

Advice
"This is a great job for women that want to stay strong and fit their whole life. The time off is great — it allows one to pursue all sorts of other activities."

Factoids

1. Less than 1% of firefighters are female.
2. First class firefighters make about $52,000 per year with full benefits.

Paramedic

Danielle Gagnon

Danielle was working as a lifeguard when a little girl suffered a respiratory arrest. As she watched the paramedics work on the child, Danielle realized that was what she wanted to do with her life.

Now, as a paramedic, Danielle has achieved her goal of working with an ambulance service. Every day offers new challenges and the reward of helping people in need.

Danielle finds that it's really important for her to separate work from home. It's the only way to maintain a decent frame of mind.

She originally trained as a nurse, but she didn't want to work in hospitals. She likes to get out in the field and use her skills to help people in emergency situations.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
Approximately $37,000 per year plus benefits.

Education
DCS in Nursing and Attestation of College Studies (ACS) in Paramedic Techniques.

Typical Work Schedule
Usually 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., day shifts are also involved.

Advice
"It is a very interesting job and there is definitely a place for women."

Factoids

1. Québec's ambulance attendants obtain their training at the college level.
2. As a paramedic, Danielle makes around $37,000 per year plus benefits. The concept of paramedics was first established during the Vietnam War.

Rescue Specialist Answers

Describe a typical day.

My duties include everything from surface swimming to diving down to a sunken car, plane or boat.

What education is required?

Deckhand and Marine Emergency Duties courses at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

I love the ocean and the freedom of working outdoors plus knowing that, as a team, we can make a difference. Saving lives is a great reward.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Our shifts are four on and four off. The day shifts are 10 hours and nights are 14 hours. It's difficult to find childcare for those kinds of hours, although I have managed so far.

What is the salary range for this position?

Approximately $33,000 annually.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could be employed anywhere in the marine industry because my rescue and medical skills are always applicable.

Firefighter Answers

Describe a typical day.

I attend emergencies including fires, medical emergencies, high-angle rescues, swift-water rescues, confined-space rescue, vehicle accidents and anything else required.

What education is required?

A degree in Criminology and Firefighting training.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

The people I work with are great and occasionally I get to do something that really makes a difference to someone in the public.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Sometimes interacting with another emergency agency is frustrating. I know I have to prove myself more than the guys. The public is especially critical when they realize I'm a woman.

What is the salary range for this position?

A first class firefighter makes about $52,000, with full medical and dental benefits, and a good pension.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I don't think this job will ever become obsolete, but if it did, the amount of skills one develops would make finding another job a breeze.

Paramedic Answers

Describe a typical day.

I give pre-hospital care for those who call 911 and transport them to the hospital.

What education is required?

A DCS in Nursing and an ACS in Paramedic Techniques.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

Taking care of people and saving lives!

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

I think the most frustrating part of my job is that I don't get to do as much as I'd like to for the people I take care of. We almost never hear news of how our patients are doing or what happened to them after we leave the hospital.

What is the salary range for this position?

Approximately $37,000 annually, with benefits and pension plan.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

There are not a lot of things I can do if I'm not working in an ambulance. Possibly "Community Relations" or "Media Relations," but those jobs have only two people for each service.

Utilities Careers

This video is your pipeline to the utilities sector. The petroleum, natural gas, hydro-electric and telecommunications industries provide a huge base for employment.

Telecommunications, in particular, has seen rapid and enormous change. With the wireless phone, it has produced the fastest growing consumer product in history. Maintaining system equipment for over nine million wireless devices in Canada alone has created many new career options.

Although some of the work in utilities can be physically demanding, the rewards are quite substantial, with salaries in the $50,000 per year range.

Overview

Melanie Young
Network Operations Field Technician
Edmonton, AB

Laura Warkentin
Petroleum and Natural Gas Technologist
Abbotsford, BC

Nicole Brochu
Hydroelectric Lineperson
Acton Vale, QC

Factoids

1. Over $1 billion was invested in mobile phone communication in 1998.
2. The majority of outside technicians are unionized employees who receive good wages, benefits, and job security.

Network Operations Field Technician

Melanie Young

Melanie Young got her first taste of telecommunications when she was trained as a radio/teletype operator in the Communications Reserves of the Canadian Forces. From that moment on, she was hooked!

Now, with a two-year training program in Telecommunications Technology, Melanie has a great future maintaining equipment for a major cellular company. In an industry with a phenomenal growth rate, her career possibilities are endless.

With more and more people going "wireless," new products and services will be popping up everywhere. From a work perspective, Melanie's technical abilities are expanding every day.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$26,500 to $45,500.

Education
Diploma in Telecommunication Engineering Technology.

Typical Work Schedule
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. On-call 24 hours a day for two-week periods.

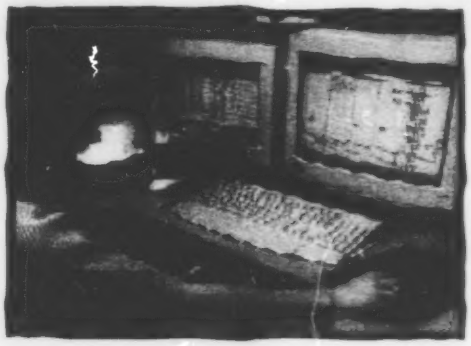
Advice
"No matter what field you are in, or want to be in, make sure it fits you. Just because one industry may have more jobs or more pay doesn't mean that it is what you should do."

Factoids

1. A DVS in telecommunications equipment installation/repair can lead to exciting careers.
2. While over half the world's population has never made a phone call, developing countries are leapfrogging conventional wire phones to go wireless. By 2005, 50% of all calls worldwide will be wireless.

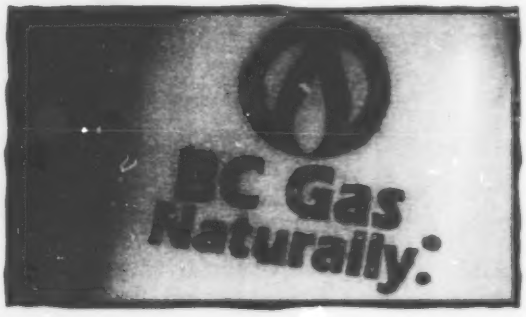
Petroleum and Natural Gas Technologist

Laura Warkentin



Laura Warkentin works for BC Gas. She designs and coordinates the installation of gas main services for the utility's customers. This involves a lot of planning and preparation of cost estimates. She draws up the plan, gets all necessary approvals, arranges the crews and ensures the project is completed properly and in a timely fashion.

When asked what she enjoys about her job, Laura responds that she likes working on projects that you get to see right through from start to finish. Also, she really appreciates the customer service aspect of the job.



Candidate Profile

Salary Range
$42,700 to $51,300.

Education
Two-year diploma in Oil and Natural Gas Technology.

Typical Work Schedule
40 hours per week.

Advice
"This is a great field to enter because it is so vast. You could work on oil rigs, offshore, or in the utility distribution side of things. You really get a feeling of providing a service to one another."

Factoids

1. Employment opportunities are increasing in the utilities sector as more and more companies are competing to be utility providers.

2. At the age of 22, Laura is already earning more than $43,000 per year.

Hydroelectric Lineperson

Nicole Brochu

Nicole Brochu comes from a large farm family, and she, along with her eight siblings, often helped out around the farm. Her love of the outdoors and preference for manual labour made Nicole a perfect candidate for training as a hydro lineperson.

Her work involves construction, maintenance, responding to client requests, and dealing with emergencies. She rotates the task of climbing poles with her partner – one climbs while the other helps out at the bottom. However, many times they use a lift truck. Luckily, heights don't bother Nicole and she enjoys working outdoors.

She admits that the work is physically demanding, even though they have tools and machinery to help. Danger is always a factor, too, due to the heights at which they work and the presence of high-voltage electricity.

Candidate Profile

Salary Range
An average of $50,000 per year.

Education
DCS in Architecture plus Hydro training.

Typical Work Schedule
Usually 40 hours per week, but there is lots of overtime during emergencies.

Advice
"If you like team work, have physical strength, like manual labour, and can tolerate harsh weather, go for it! "

Factoids

1. Less than 4% of Québec's electric power line and cable workers are women.
2. The average salary for outside utility workers like Nicole can exceed $50,000 per year.

Network Operations Field Technician Answers

Describe a typical day.

I maintain cellular equipment on a monthly basis, doing installations and repairs, when necessary. On a daily basis, I coordinate with several contractors and the Microcell implementation team to bring cell sites on-line. We make sure that everything is up to specifications.

What education is required?

Telecommunication Engineering Technology Program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

Being on a trouble-call and fixing whatever problem there is.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

Relying on other companies/contractors to do work properly and on-time can sometimes be frustrating.

What is the salary range for this position?

$26,500 to $45,500.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

The skills that I learn in this job will easily translate into any other future job. Not only the technical skills, but also the personal skills needed to maintain good working relationships with co-workers, contractors, and the general public.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Technologist Answers

Describe a typical day.

I design and then coordinate the installation of gas main services to our customers. It involves a lot of planning and preparing of cost estimates. Then I draw up the plans, get all the approvals, order up the crews and ensure the project is completed well and in a timely fashion.

What education is required?

Oil and Natural Gas Technology Program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

What do you think the best part about this job is?

It is great working on computers that are the latest technology. And I like working on projects where you start at the very beginning and you get to see the finished result.

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

The only thing I find frustrating about the job is when my computer crashes when I'm desperately trying to make a deadline.

What is the salary range for this position?

$42,700 to $51,300.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I can work in other provinces, for example, in Alberta's petroleum industry.

Hydroelectric Lineperson Answers

Describe a typical day.

My work involves construction, maintenance and client requests. There are also emergencies involved. I rotate climbing with a partner – one helps at the bottom while the other climbs the pole.

What education is required?

Hydro training.

What do you think the best part about this job is ?

I love working as part of a team, and having good relationships with co-workers. I really enjoy working outdoors so I can see the four seasons. I take pride in helping people in tough times. People were so happy to see us during the Ice Storm!

What difficulties or frustrations do you think this type of work presents?

The tools are hard to manoeuvre, and in the winter, they can freeze. We always have to be extremely careful. You can never rush a job because if you do, you could die.

What is the salary range for this position?

Starting salary is $16 to $17 per hour with good benefits and pension plan.

Can your skills be used elsewhere?

I could do this for other companies like Bell Canada or Videotron.

CAREER OPTIONS for Women

The series about women who work in jobs traditionally done by men

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Produced by **THIRD*WAVE*** Communications Inc.
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